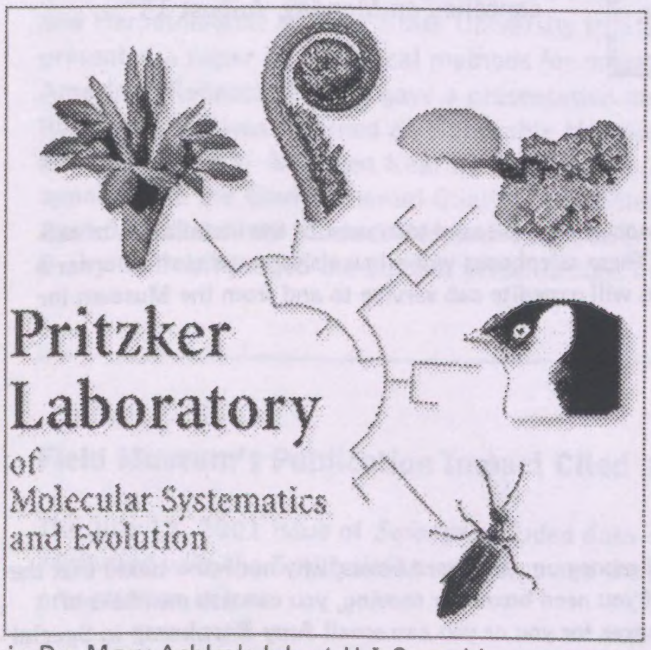
The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
August 3, 2001

New Pritzker Laboratory Manager Arrives



The Pritzker Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Evolution is pleased to announce the arrival of its new Lab Manager, **Kevin Feldheim**. Kevin comes to us from the University of Illinois, Chicago where he has been working on the population genetics of sharks.

Kevin is just completing his Ph.D. in Dr. Mary Ashley's lab at U.I.C. and is an expert in gathering and analyzing microsatellite data. Kevin replaces Amy Driskell, who left The Field Museum for a postdoctoral appointment at the University of California, Davis. So be sure to stop by the Lab and welcome Kevin to The Field Museum, and he will explain to you what microsatellites are.

The Field Museum's Pritzker Laboratory is a non-departmental multi-user core facility dedicated to genetic analysis and preservation of the world's biodiversity. It is shared by Field Museum curators, staff members and associated outside collaborators who constitute together one of the most diverse groups of evolutionary biologists and systematists in the world. The lab provides researchers with state-of-the-art equipment in molecular biology, enabling them to pursue the study of genetic diversity throughout the tree of life and at all taxonomic levels, from relationships among populations to classes and phyla of organisms.

(See Pritzker Laboratory Web site, http://www.fmnh.org/research_collections/pritzker_lab/pritzker/ for more information about the lab and credits for above illustration).

FIELD NOTES

August 3-August 10

Staff/Volunteer Events

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m. Ground Floor

Soccer
- Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Grant Park near Balbo & Columbus

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m. FP&O Conference Room.

Public/Campus Events

© The Field Museum Z93527.43c

- **Insects: 105 Years of Collecting** continues
- **Living Colors** continues
- **Julie Taymor** continues
- **In Her Hands** continues

The Natural News *is published by the Human Resources Department.*

Submissions can be emailed to Mark Schmeltzer (mschmeltzer@fmnh.org) Or delivered to him via interoffice mail to the Office of Institutional Advancement.

The deadline for next week's issue is WEDNESDAY, August 8 at NOON.

Please join John McCarter on Friday, August 17th for the quarterly President's Address

Montgomery Ward/Lecture Hall I

•last names beginning A-M 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

coffee and bagels 10:00 a.m.

•last names beginning N-Z 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

Please help the Museum's recycling efforts and bring your own mug!

Mark your calendar... The last President's Address of this year is scheduled for October 19.

Staff Anniversaries in August

Peter Wagner	Geology	5 years
Mark Kennedy	Education	10 Years
Nadine Kendra	Education	15 Years

Congratulations!

➡Please Note that Tae Bo will be cancelled on Monday, August 13th.

Checker Taxi Association Courtesy Telephones

The Field Museum in conjunction with Checker Taxi Association is pleased to announce the installation of cab courtesy telephones at the South and West Entrances. These telephones will allow visitors and staff to order a cab directly from Checker Taxi Association. The phones will expedite cab service to and from the Museum for staff and visitors.

NATURAL USE

MOVING??

Instead of spending lots of money on cardboard boxes, why not reuse boxes that the Museum has available? If you need boxes for moving, you can ask members of your department to save boxes for you or you can email **Amy Bornkamp** in Special Events (abornkamp@fieldmuseum.org) for more information. Remember, after you have moved, you can save your boxes to reuse or you can recycle them. The majority of cardboard boxes that get recycled are remade into new cardboard boxes—isn't that great? Please note that you should secure a door pass if you are taking boxes (even empty ones) out of the Museum.

Speaking of moving and packing...

If you have unwanted, CLEAN packing peanuts, please contact **Mary Anne Rogers** in Fishes (ext. 7732). Please don't throw them out! You can drop off your bagged peanuts with her where they will be available for others to use in the future. While peanuts are, strangely, in short supply right now, this will change, so contact Mary Anne if you NEED peanuts, also.

Mark your calendars!

The President's next address will be Friday, August 17th at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with coffee and bagels at 10 a.m. PLEASE BRING YOUR COFFEE MUG!

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

On 26-29 June 2001, **Mark Westneat**, **Barry Chernoff**, **Phil Willink**, **Ana Carnaval** (Zoology) and **Juta Buschbohm** attended the joint annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Evolution and the Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. Mark Westneat is a member of the Governing Council of SSB. Barry Chernoff presented a paper in collaboration with **Bill Ballard** and **Avis James** (Zoology) entitled "Species and Species Concepts: A Case Study." Ana Carnaval presented a poster on her thesis research entitled "Genetic structure of amphibian populations in Northeastern Brazil: a comparison between natural and human-created forest fragments."

On 5-10 July 2001, **Maureen Kearney**, **Mary Anne Rogers**, **Rebecca Thomas** and **Barry Chernoff** from the Zoology Department attended the annual meetings of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists at Penn State University in State College, PA. Barry Chernoff and **Phil Willink** presented a paper on statistical methods for making rapid assessments of aquatic ecosystems in South America. Rebecca Thomas gave a presentation on development and ossification sequences in the tail-light tetra and was awarded an Honorable Mention for the best student paper in genetics, morphology and development. Maureen Kearney was elected to the Board of Governors. Barry Chernoff was appointed to the Environmental Quality Committee. Maureen Kearney was a judge for the Gaige Award for Graduate Student Research and Storer Award for the best student poster in Herpetology. Barry Chernoff judged the student presentations in conservation biology.

Field Museum's Publication Impact Cited in *Science*

The July 13, 2001 issue of *Science* included data on The Field Museum's publication impact as compared with the Smithsonian museums and the American Museum of Natural History. The data was presented as below:

	No. of Papers	Citations/paper
Smithsonian Institution (includes National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, and Smithsonian Environmental Research Center):		
• Plant and Animal Science	1,707	6.0
• Environment/Ecology	438	10.7
• Geosciences	236	6.1
• Space Science (CfA)	2,810	17.0
Field Museum		
• Plant and Animal Science	309	4.4
American Museum of Natural History		
• Plant and Animal Science	258	4.2

Baker's Corner

By Paul Baker

A few weeks ago Ben Bronson spent some time telling Isabel Tovar-Castro and me about a Thai restaurant he had gone to on north Lincoln. He said that the chef learned the craft in Thailand and that the food was very authentic. That was enough to set us off.

The O Cha Café is on one of those flatiron corners formed as Lincoln Avenue heads northwest through the regular N-S/E-W grid of streets. The neighborhood used to be one of light industry, harboring the majority of airline meal producers and at least one packinghouse. It had some charm what with the Learning Center and the Chicago School of Massage Therapy rubbing shoulders with funky antique stores, restaurants and specialty markets. The original Muskies is there. Then came a nightclub. Goodbye railroad tracks, hello faux-brick condos and no-parking zones.

"O cha" means delicious, in the royal language of Thailand. "Arroy" is what the common people can say about the food that Toom (chef, owner, smiliest person on the North Side) prepares everyday. The kitchen is right inside the door so it is impossible to miss her smiling face, "Ageless Wonder" hat and "USA" t-shirt.

Toom has been in the United States for three years. She met her husband Wayne here and they have owned the space for about three months, purchasing it from the former Thai restaurant owner.

We sat in an alcove room perusing the menu. When the pot stickers came I was just about to ask for some vinegar, soy and chili paste so that I could make my own sauce. Isabel suggested I try the accompanying sauce first and after that I put my own prejudices aside. Also delicious was the satay chicken—marinated and perfectly charcoal-broiled—served with peanut sauce and cucumber salad. I mentioned differences in the peanut sauce and Toom said that it was her "elder sister's sauce."

It turns out the many of the recipes are from relatives back in Thailand. This easily sets O Cha apart from the many Thai restaurants which have US-trained cooks instead of cooks that come from Thailand. The food is fine at those places but we found subtle, tasty differences.

Since we expressed so much interest in the cuisine, Toom brought us some of her spring rolls to taste—crunchy, flavorful bites of vegetable and omelet strips that are tightly wrapped so that nothing falls out and the home-made plum sauce stays in. We then ordered pad thai (mom's recipe) which proved to be darker and richer than most, and Panang curry (Toom's favorite) of shrimp, snow peas, coconut milk and fresh basil leaves which proved to be incredibly rich. We'll have to go back to sample the asparagus with oyster sauce, ginger duck and home-made Thai sausage.

Well, as Isabel says, "I have to have something sweet or else my mind doesn't understand that dinner is over." This in mind, Toom brought out her dad's recipe of mango slices served with sticky rice and roasted yellow beans. This is NOT to be confused with the sticky balls served at dim-sum brunches. A bite of clear, sweet, redolent rice that clings to your teeth like licorice, followed by a bite of succulent, ripe fruit proves unbelievable. While we chatted, Toom just happened to bring to the table a bag of fresh lichees (one of my favorites) for us to hull and sample. As an unusual final gesture of trans-Pacific goodwill, there were shoulder massages, all around.

As often happens, we were the last to leave. I promised to call ahead for an order of gruy but sheez—warm coconut milk pudding with banana slices, offered a garbled "korb khun krab"—thank you very much from a male, and we left. It was truly "o cha."

O Cha Café
Authentic Thai Restaurant
2907 N. Lincoln
773-883-0242

BOOKWMN SPEAKS

By Paula Ramos

My first husband was a psychiatric social worker. An expression he used often, after returning home from working those chaotic days at Beatty Memorial Hospital, in Westville, Indiana, was, "There's a little "pyro" in everyone!" Several people, who were patient/residents on his floor, considered it great sport and particularly exciting to ignite anything on the unit that was flammable. You can understand why he was so displeased, after stomping out burning mattresses and waste baskets, two or three times a week, to arrive home one evening to witness a small field fire; inadvertently started by his wife of a few months, me!

Years later, I purchased a 1949 Seagrave 750 gallon per minute pumper. It was a mammoth sized, retired fire engine from East Chicago, Indiana and I began working on restoring that 22- gauge steel, 17,000-pound jewel, with a frenzied enthusiasm. I enjoyed that fire in the field; it talked directly to me; it was a beautiful accident that thrilled me and I reveled in polishing the faded paint and dull chrome on Engine No. 8, until it blazed! Even though I could not get a match to light until I was in high school, I have always loved the beast, fire.

Caroline Paul is a woman with a similar view, "Fire taps something ancient and vital in all of us, something both snarling and reverential. Fire harkens back to our wilder selves, the parts we let out when we think no one is looking." Her book, *Fighting Fire—A Personal Story*, will enthrall you and answer those questions about firemen that you have wondered about since childhood. She is a veteran fire fighter with the San Francisco Fire Department; one of the first dozen women to serve the people of the wind swept and often, combustible Baghdad-by-the-Bay. On a whim and out of curiosity, after graduating from Stanford University, joining a luge team, acting as a guide for white-water rafters, doing "rip-writes" for a local radio station and working with a small film company, she took the written exam for admission to the fire academy. Caroline and 250 others, out of 5,000 applicants, qualified and began to prepare for the grueling physical test. Affirmative action helped her but was not the final deciding factor in her being hired; intelligence and physical strength won her the job of her dreams.

Cadet Paul was a vegetarian; her identical twin sister starred as a *Bay Watch* babe and her brother was a radical animal rights protester. These factors along with her Stanford degree were cause for a small amount of hazing. Needless to say, moving into the macho world of the firehouse took some adjustments by both the men in her company and also, by Caroline. This book is grim and poetic; a real page turner; rescues and deaths; yet there is a gentle humor throughout. Describing one of her fellow firemen, Caroline muses, "Like me, John is friendly but reserved with everyone; like me he is a person with manners, who believes that even if all hell is breaking loose, a polite hello and a handshake can somehow keep the chaos at bay." Ms. Paul does not like all of the people she works with and they do not all like her but mutual respect is maintained due to their dependency on one another in daily life or death situations. A great book to buy for your teenage daughter; dads and moms should read it to have a better understanding that courage is not exclusively a male characteristic but rests, waiting to serve, in their daughters' hearts, as well.

I remember the winter that began in December of 1958. The gray sky and the sadness seemed to go on forever. My teachers would huddle together and in solemn voices discuss the tragedy and what to do if fire and smoke would engulf our three-story school, Harrison Elementary. *To Sleep With the Angels* by David Cowan and John Kuenster has been re-released in paperback. It unfolds the story of the grisly fire at the Our Lady of the Angels School here in Chicago; taking the lives of ninety-two children and three nuns. Why read a book like this? To learn that it was smoke and poor grown-up judgment that killed these people and not the fire. This study of the fire does not change its "undetermined" status with officials but it does shed much new light on the probable causes of the inferno that changed American Schools, forever. This is a fine piece of investigative writing and should be read by every parent and also by any kind of building staff who would be responsible for moving large numbers of people out of a threatening situation. I have spoken at hundreds of schools and the Our Lady of the Angels deaths were not in vain; fire safety standards in American schools are remarkably stringent; vigilance is the reason this catastrophe has not and will not occur again. Learn from this book and pass that knowledge on to the little people you care about. Smoke and heat are as deadly as fire and your plan MUST be made before the danger is imminent.

"Any decision is better than no decision."—West Point

AUGUST
SOLDIER FIELD PARKING / MAYOR'S OFFICE OF SPECIAL EVENT UPDATES

- **MCCORMICK PLACE EVENTS- Expect traffic congestions for some of the following conferences that will take place in August:**
  - ICCM Int'l/ Field Service Solutions/ Customer Relationship Mgmt. July 30- August 2 Expected Attendance 15,000
  - Intl. Hardware Week – August 12-14 Expected Attendance 72,300
  - Ntl. Black Data Processing Associates Ntl. Conf. – August 14-19 Expected Attendance 1,200
  - HP Conference & Expo Interex– August 20-24 Expected Attendance 3,000
  - Am. Chemical Society Conv. – August 26-30 Expected Attendance 13,000
  - Muslim Am. Society Annual Conv. – August 31- September 1 Expected Attendance 10,000
- **NAVY PIER**- There are no significant staff and visitor parking concerns for the following conferences that will take place in August :
  - Pharmacy Conf. – August 19-21 Expected Attendance 1,500
  - Alive with Pride (Chg. Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce) – August 31- September 3 Expected Attendance 15,000
- **FIELD MUSEUM EVENTS-** By visiting http://intranet1:100/fmevents, you will find the posted events being held at the Field Museum. Parking information for some of these events is posted in the Soldier Field Parking Calendar.
- **SOLDIER FIELD PARKING CALENDAR**- The calendar at http://intranet1:100/parking gives you important information about parking changes during events in or near the Museum Campus area.
  - August 4- Bears Game **(see calendar for times and parking instructions.)**
  - August 11- Soccer Game **(see calendar for times and parking instructions.)**
  - August 15- Soccer Game **(see calendar for times and parking instructions.)**
  - August 16-17- Concert **(see calendar for times and parking instructions.)**
  - August 19- Pan American Festival **(see calendar for times and parking instructions.)**
  - August 22 Int'l Soccer **(see calendar for times and parking instructions.)**
  - August 25- Bears Game **(see calendar for times and parking instructions.)**
  - August 29- Soccer Games **(see calendar for times and parking instructions.)**
- **GRANT PARK EVENTS- Expect traffic congestions.** For further information, check out the following web site: http://www.cityofchicago.org/Special Events/Festivals.html
  - Radiohead Concert- Arvey Field- August 1 Expected Attendance 26,000
  - Air & Water Show- August 18-19- North Ave beach, no street closings
  - Viva! Chicago- August 25-26 set-up Aug. 23-24; Jackson closed. Jackson will stay closed through the Jazz Festival.
  - Chicago Jazz Festival- August 30-September 2 set-up: Sept. 13-14; Jackson/Columbus closed from Monroe to Congress. Streets open on the morning of Sept. 17

If you have any questions regarding parking, please call the Public Services Office at extension 7911.